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“THE WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA.”

The Greatest Success of the Times.

It's only a few days since the first of the Portfolios of "Wild Flowers of America" was ready for distribution and yet its reception seems already as if the whole nation was singing its praises. From College Presidents, Botanical Professors—teachers of all kinds, Senators, Congressmen, Lawyers, Doctors, Students and the great mass of thinking people, letters of the warmest commendation are pouring in, filling the mails, and constituting at once a demonstration rarely, if ever, approached in the history of popular publications in America. From the mass of letters we publish a few, selecting mostly those of college graduates and others whose actual experience makes them judges of the work they are writing about. We are just as grateful for the letters and telegrams and postal cards from the tens of thousands of young women and young men, whose admiration seems boundless; and may at another time show appreciation of them.

A National Work Receives a National Testimonial.

J. HAVENS RICHARDS, President Georgetown College, West Washington, D. C.:

"The beauty and artistic excellence of the colored drawings are worthy of high praise, * * * and I am confident that by its attraction many young people will be led to undertake and pursue with the greatest pleasure a study which they might otherwise find distasteful."

J. V. COCKRILL, Congressman, Thirteenth District, Texas, Graduate of Chapel Hill College, Ex-District Judge:

"Is both beautiful and interesting."

A. C. HARMER, Congressman, Philadelphia, representing Fifth District, Pennsylvania:

"I have carefully examined Mr. Buek's works of the 'Wild Flowers of America,' and think them exquisite."

DAN WAUGH, Congressman Ninth District, Indiana, Ex-Circuit Judge, member Seventh Agricultural Committee, House of Representatives:

"I regard it an excellent work of art, which would be an adornment to any library."

CHAMP CLARK, Congressman Ninth District, Missouri, Graduate Bethany College, W. Va., Ex-President Marshall College, W. Va.

GEO. W. SMITH, Congressman Twentieth District, Illinois, Graduate McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill.:

"A valuable, beautiful and instructive book, and should be in every school-room in the land."

E. H. FUNSTON, Congressman, Second District, Kansas, Graduate Marietta College, Ohio, Ex-President State Senate:

"In my judgment, will be a most valuable acquisition to the libraries of those who love the beautiful in nature."

CHAS. H. MORGAN, Congressman, Fifteenth District, Missouri:

"Deserves and will receive the encomiums from all lovers of the beautiful, and its correctness and completeness make it one of the most valuable contributions to American literature."



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FIVE-LEAVED GINSENG.
CANAX (ARALIA) QUINQUEFOLIA.
JUNE—JULY.



— 146 —

YELLOW OR CAROLINA JESSAMINE.
GELSEMIUM SEMPERVIRENS.
MARCH—APRIL.

PLATE 145.

FIVE-LEAVED GINSENG. PANAX (ARALIA) QUINQUEFOLIA. (GINSENG FAMILY.)

Stem erect from a fusiform, thickened root, from three to twelve inches high, smooth, rather weak; leaves three in a whorl, slender-petioled, palmately compound; leaflets five or seven, oblong or obovate-lanceolate, acute; flowers small, white, in a terminal umbel; fruit a small, red berry.



HIS handsome little Ginseng is becoming scarce. Where it formerly grew in patches one must needs search long now to find a single plant. The five-leaved Ginseng is by no means so common, as a rule, as the three-leaved species. The thick aromatic root was once much esteemed in medicine here at home, and still brings a round price in China, whither much of it is exported from this country. For this reason it has been almost exterminated in many parts of the United States. In the Appalachian region, where it is most at home, the hunt for it has been very destructive. In the South, where it is known as "sang," large parties camp out in the rich mountain woods in which it grows, and search for it day by day. The late summer is usually the time chosen for "sanging," as then the red berries are very conspicuous. When his supply of tobacco is low, the mountaineer carries a bit of Ginseng root in his pocket, as a substitute by no means unpalatable. But the greater part of it is sold at the nearest "store."

Panax quinquefolia much resembles the three-leaved Ginseng, but may be distinguished easily by the spindle-shaped root and the red berries.

PLATE 146.

YELLOW OR CAROLINA JESSAMINE. GELSEMIUM SEMPERVIRENS. (LOGANIA FAMILY.)

Climbing, somewhat shrubby, quite smooth; stem slender, branching, leafy; leaves opposite, short-petioled, ovate, acute, rounded at base, the upper surface shining; flowers in rather dense, short-peduncled, axillary clusters; corolla large, campanulate-funnel-form, five-lobed; stamens five, anthers arrow-shaped; style filiform, bearing two two-lobed stigmas.

"The soft, warm night wind flutters
Up from the dim lagoon,
While the timorous shadows hide them
From the red new-risen moon;
The scent of the jasmine lingers
Like a languorous pain divine,
Till the night-moth reels in its fragrance,
Drunken as if with wine.
Oh, jasmine fair!
Oh, southern night most rare!"—*Arlo Bates.*



RACE and elegance are personified in the Yellow Jessamine. It is one of the most superb of the wild flowers. The high-climbing stems with their dark-green, shining leaves and clusters of showy yellow blossoms are a meet garland for the flowery woods and swamps of the Southern Atlantic and Gulf States. Added to its other charms, the Yellow Jessamine has exquisite fragrance. It is not a true Jessamine at all, the *Gelsemium*, though its botanical name is a latinization of the Italian for Jessamine. It is almost an evergreen. The handsome flowers are among the first to open,—in March and April. Yet, at that time, the fields and pine woods of the South are bright with color. There is no lack of pink blossoms, and blue and white, to add to the beauty of contrast to the *Gelsemium's*

"Yellow flowers, the gayest in the land."

The Yellow Jessamine belongs to a family renowned for the virulency of the poison in their juices. In North America the Pink-Root, a beautiful plant let it be said, maintains the evil reputation of the family. But in the East Indies are those deadly trees, the species of *Strychnos*, whose seeds are known as *Nux Vomica* and *St. Ignatius' Bean*.



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COMMON FLEA-BEAN.
ERIGERON PHILADELPHICUS.
JUNE—AUGUST.



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HERB ROBERT.
GERANIUM ROBERTIANUM.
JUNE.

PLATE 147.

COMMON FLEA-BANE. ERIGERON PHILADELPHICUS. (SUNFLOWER FAMILY.)

Perennial; stem erect, striate, hairy, leafy, simple below, branched above; root-leaves clustered, on margined petioles; stem-leaves alternate, clasping, oblong or spatulate, sharply and coarsely serrate; heads forming a bracted corymb at the top of the stem; rays numerous, pinkish; disk yellow.



FEW of us do not see beauty in the rose or the water-lily. Even the violet and the anemone win universal admiration. There are not many who, like Wordsworth's Peter Bell, see nothing in the bright, brilliant, fragrant flowers known to us all. It may be said of few whose intelligence rises above the commonest needs and desires of life, as the poet wrote of his villager,—

“In vain, through every changeful year,
Did Nature lead him as before;
A primrose by a river's brim
A yellow primrose was to him,
And it was nothing more.”

But, on the other hand, there are few of us who can or will appreciate the beauty of humbler flowers, of the dusty wayside tramps; for “pale wood-weeds, the voice of praise is silent.” Yet many, even when measured by exacting standards of beauty, are not found wanting.

Of these plants, often neglected by those to whom the name of weed signifies only ugliness, the Flea-Bane is one. If its tall stem were shortened to the ground its pretty heads and even its leaves would not be a bad imitation of the English daisy. The rays are very numerous, of a rose-pink or purplish color, and surround a disk of bright yellow flowers.

PLATE 148.

HERB ROBERT. GERANIUM ROBERTIANUM. (GERANIUM FAMILY.)

Stem erect, much branched, hirsute, leafy; leaves opposite, on long petioles, ternately several times compound, appressed hairy; peduncles long, slender, axillary, bearing one or two flowers; sepals five subulate-pointed, exceeded by the five purplish petals; fruit of five carpels which curl away from the axis when ripe.



THE name “Geranium” naturally suggests to our minds the brilliant scarlet or pink-flowered plants, with handsome scalloped leaves, that ornament our conservatories in winter and our gardens in summer. These are not true geraniums, rank heresy as it may seem to say so, but Pelargoniums, plants of South Africa. Of true geraniums we have several native species that love deep rich woods, and several more introduced from Europe, growing as weeds on waste ground. Most of these have small flowers, not at all conspicuous. One species, however, *Geranium Maculatum*, has beautiful rose-purple flowers.

Herb Robert is a plant of our damp woods in the middle belt of North America. It is a small plant, hairy, with weak stems. The leaves are prettily cut. Graceful foliage is the rule with the whole *Geranium* family for that matter. Herb Robert is also found in Europe. Its quaint name is a very old one in England. To trace its origin would be an interesting quest.

The flowers of *Geranium Robertianum* are quite small, yet very pretty. Their color is a pale purplish-pink. The plant has a strong odor, rather disagreeable. Somewhat resembling it is *Geranium Carolinianum*, a common weed of waste-ground and dry fields.



— 149 —
PURPLE CORN-FLOWER.
ECHINACEA AUGUSTIFOLIA.
 JUNE—AUGUST.



— 150 —
TOOTHWORT.
DENTARIA DIPHYLLA.
 MAY.

PLATE 149.

PURPLE CONE-FLOWER. ECHINACEA AUGUSTIFOLIA. (SUNFLOWER FAMILY.)

Stem simple, erect from a thick, rather woody, scaly, black root, hairy, leafy below; leaves long-petioled, lanceolate, acute at both ends, entire, with three prominent nerves; heads at the rather fistulose naked summits of the stems; rays rather numerous, pink, much exceeding the imbricated involucre.



YE the bright orange-color rays of the common Cone-flower or "Black-Eyed Susan" with rose, adding just a suspicion of purple, and you have the Purple Cone-flower, or a very good imitation of it. Less hairy are the stem and leaves of the Echinacea, the disk a less intense and lighter brown, but otherwise the resemblance to Rudbeckia Hirta is close. It is one of the handsomest of the Sunflower Family. As a rule these plants are more noticeable for showiness of flowers than for elegance of form. The Purple Cone-flower is to a certain extent an exception. Rigidly upright as are its stems, there is something of grace in their port, undefinable but apparent. Still more beautiful is its sister-species, Echinacea Purpurea. This has broader leaves and is less stiff; it is less hoary and of a brighter green.

Echinacea Augustifolia is properly a prairie plant, ranging from our Western prairies to the glades of Middle Tennessee, and thence to the South and West, blossoming in early summer. It often grows with the common Cone-flower, contrasting with the vivid yellow and black of its relative.

PLATE 150.

TOOTHWORT. DENTARIA DIPHYLLA. (CRESS FAMILY.)

Perennial; stem erect from a long, horizontal, toothed rootstock, smooth, unbranched; leaves pinnately trifoliate, the radical on very long, the cauline, two, opposite, on short petioles; leaflets ovate or oblong, wedge-shaped at base, sharply toothed; flowers long-pedicelled in a simple raceme, purplish.



ERE we have one of the prettiest of our spring wild-flowers,—a much handsomer plant than most of its family. The graceful cluster of pale purple flowers rising above the twin leaves, is one of the showiest objects in the April woods. It is a native of Canada and the Northern States east of the Mississippi and south to the mountains of Tennessee and the Carolinas. The dentate rootstock is responsible for the names, both Latin and English. It has a pleasant, biting taste. But on this point we had better repeat what Burroughs has said in his characteristic way, in "Signs and Seasons":

"When I was a school-boy, we used to gather, in a piece of woods on our way to school, the roots of a closely allied species to eat with our lunch. But we generally ate it up before lunch-time. Our name for this plant was 'Crinkle-root.' The botanists call it the toothwort (Dentaria), also, pepper-root."

Describing the flavor of the roots, he says:

"They were a surprise and a challenge to the tongue; on the table they would well fill the place of mustard, and horse-radish and other appetizers."

A more delicate species of Dentaria is Dentaria Laciniata, which has deeply cut leaves and pale pink or nearly white flowers.



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 NEWBERRY'S LEUCAMPYX.
 LEUCAMPYX NEWBERRYI.



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 PARTRIDGE BERRY.
 MITCHELLA REPENS.
 JUNE.

PLATE 151.

NEWBERRY'S LEUCAMPYX. LEUCAMPYX NEWBERRYI. (SUNFLOWER FAMILY.)

Herbaceous, perennial, a foot or so in height, whole plant covered with loose, deciduous wool; stem branching, leafy below, naked above; leaves twice or thrice pinnatifid; heads terminating, the branches rather large; involucre of few, membranaceous bracts; rays nearly an inch long, cream-colored, or yellow at first.



AN odd relative of the Chamomile, Mayweed and Yarrow has been found in the Northwest and in some of the Western States and Territories, Colorado and New Mexico, particularly. It was first collected by Dr. John S. Newberry, long Professor of Geology at Columbia College, and an ardent botanist as well. To him Torrey dedicated the curious leafless parasitic herb of the Pinesap Family,—*Newberrya Congesta*,—a plant of Washington and Oregon. He found the *Leucampyx* in Southwestern Colorado, and Gray called it *Newberryi* in his honor.

It is a remarkable plant, the *Leucampyx*. The leaves and stems are covered over with a loose white "wool," giving a hoary look to the plant. The heads are on long naked stalks. They are quite large, somewhat resembling those of the Yarrow, magnified. They have a circle of broad rays, usually light yellow at first but soon fading to a dirty white, surrounding a disk of the same color. *Leucampyx* is derived from two Greek words, signifying "white" and "head-band." The bracts or leaves of the involucre surrounding the head are margined with white.

The *Leucampyx* has not been described as possessing odor, though the strong scent characterizing most of its relatives would lead us to expect it.

PLATE 152.

PARTRIDGE BERRY. MITCHELLA REPENS. (MADDER FAMILY.)

Stems slender, creeping and rooting at the joints, smooth; leaved opposite, on slender petioles, small, ovate, obtuse at both ends, obscurely toothed, veiny; flowers in pairs; corolla tubular, campanulate, with four spreading lobes, hairy within, pale pink in color; fruit drupaceous, four-seeded, red.



THIS was one of the flowers that Thoreau loved best to meet in his rambles about Walden. In his unique diary of the days of "Summer" he mentions it again and again, ever with a word of praise. Thus, on the twenty-first of June: "Mitchella in Deep Cut Woods—probably a day or two. Its scent is agreeable and refreshing, between the may-flower and rum-cherry bark, or like peach-stone meats." This is a very happy characterization of the distinctly hydrocyanic odor of the *Mitchella* blossoms. Two days later we find this entry: "The pretty little *Mitchella Repens*, with its twin flowers, spots the ground under the pines, its downy-petalled, cross-shaped flowers, and its purplish buds."

The Partridge Berry is a common forest plant of Eastern North America, sometimes trailing meekly on the ground, more rarely aspiring to an abode on mossy rocks. 'Tis a dainty little plant, with its two flowers so lovingly paired on the same stalk. Sometimes they become Siamese twins, joining as one. The bright red berries, sweetish but flavorless, often last through the whole winter, and are a welcome addition to the scanty fare of the birds, that remain true to the North through all its siege of snow.

PLATE 153.

HERMIDIUM ALIPES. (FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY.)

Perennial, smooth and more or less glaucous; stem erect, branching, one foot high; leaves opposite, on short petioles, ovate, subcordate, obtuse or nearly so at apex, margin entire; flowers in simple clusters at the summit of the branches, each subtended by a broad, membranaceous bract, the whole forming an involucre, short-pedicelled, apetalous; calyx campanulate, five-lobed.

UNTIL within a generation or two the conceit was cherished that flowers were chiefly made for man. That conceit has vanished as one explorer after another has found scores of beautiful blossoms in the deserts and wildernesses of our country, where, probably, no human foot had ever trod before. In a philosophy which has discarded presumption in gaining knowledge, flowers live, first for themselves,—incidentally, and only incidentally, serving man by their use, or delighting him with their beauty. *Hermidium Alipes* is an odd plant, and very handsome withal. Quite succulent and smooth, the stem and leaves are covered with a light bloom.

The large flowers, in clusters of four to six, are surrounded by a cup-like envelope of broad thin leaves. Like all the Four-O'Clock Family, there is no true corolla, but the funnel-shaped calyx is colored so as to resemble one. It is of a delicate purple hue. The *Hermidium* has the elegant appearance that very smooth plants often have, whether gracefully formed or not. It is too rare and little-known to have received a christening in plain English.

The Four-O'Clock Family contains many very beautiful plants. The common Four-O'Clock of the gardens, *Mirabilis Jalapa*, is remarkable not only for the fragrance and beauty of its blossoms, but for their disposition to open almost invariably at about four-o'clock in the afternoon. Most of the family are night-bloomers.

PLATE 154.

ANEMONE. *ANEMONE CANADENSIS*, *PENNSYLVANICA*. (CROWFOOT FAMILY.)

Stem erect from a short, perennial rootstock, dichotomously branched, more or less pubescent, one or two feet high; radical leaves long-petioled, deeply cleft and toothed; stem leaves sessile, three-cleft; flowers on long peduncles; sepals five, obovate-oblong, whitish; petals none.

DAINTY, indeed, is the little Wood Anemone that nods to the side-glances cast through woodland aisles by the early spring sun, making way in the woods of midsummer for less delicate and bolder sisters. One of these—the Canada or Pennsylvania Anemone—is not a rare plant in the forests of the North, but ventures southward no further than Pennsylvania and Illinois, so that its older name, *Canadensis*, is the more appropriate. It is found far up into the bleak Northwest, seeming to revel in the cool shades of boreal forests. It is not a striking plant, this Anemone. The forking stems end in solitary, rather large flowers of an indistinct white, almost cream-color. The leaves are rather prettily shaped, somewhat like those of the garden Aconite. Like the Hepatica, the Marsh-Marigold, and so many of the Crowfoot Family, the Anemones have no real corolla, only a calyx cunningly fashioned to do duty for the absent row of petals.

Our Anemones, pure and dainty as some of them are, are never so showy as some of the South European species, and those of Western Asia. Some of these exotic kinds are much cultivated, and always excite admiration for their brilliancy of hue.



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HERMIDIUM ALIPES.



— 154 —
ANEMONE.
ANEMONE CANADENSIS (PENNSYLVANICA.)
JUNE.

PLATE 155.

STAR-GRASS. HYPOXIS ERECTA. (AMARYLLIS FAMILY.)

Acaulescent perennial, leaves and scapes rising from a small round corm, somewhat scaly; leaves long, linear, grass-like, exceeding the scape, more or less hairy; scapes bearing a few long-pedicelled flowers at summit; perianth-segments six, villous and green without, bright yellow within.



THOREAU, to whom we may always turn when wearied with the dry technicalities of the botanists, sure of sympathetic thoughts about the flowers, has coined a pretty name for this almost nameless plant. "The yellow Bethlehem-Star," he writes, "is of a deeper yellow than the cistus, a very neat flower, grass-like." The true Star of Bethlehem (what a pretty thought-freighted name, by the way) is a native of Europe, but is often met with in grassy meadows and roadsides in the eastern part of North America. It has long, narrow, onion-like leaves, and white, almost transparent, six-petalled flowers, each with a green vein in the center.

Besides giving a new name to the Star-grass, the naturalist of Walden has furnished us with a simply-worded portrait of it, much easier of recognition than those couched in the semi-English Latin of the manuals.

Hypoxis Erecta is a small plant. The six divisions of the flower are greenish and hairy without, but bright sulphur-yellow within. Nature is frugal. When the flower is upright and almost closed she puts the bright color on the outside as in the Columbine and Pink-root. But when the blossom is spread out, the inner side of the petals displays the chief decoration.

PLATE 156.

WATER PLANTAIN. ALISMA PLANTAGO. (WATER PLANTAIN FAMILY.)

Perennial; roots a bunch of fibres; stem thickened at base, smooth; leaves all radical, on long petioles, ovate and cordate at base; main nerves parallel, veinlets reticulated; flowers small in a large panicle; sepals three, green; petals three, white; stamens usually six.



RELATED, and quite closely, to the odd Arrow-Head is the curious Water Plantain. It grows in mud, or the shallow water of ditches and bogs over a large part of the world. The leaves are clustered at the base of the stem. They much resemble those of the common Plantain or Rib-grass (*Plantago*) in form, hence the English name and the specific part of the botanical name. Sometimes the whole plant is under water. In that state the leaves are much narrower. This narrow-leaved form is much more common in Europe than in America.

The flowers are like those of *Sagittaria*, the Arrow-Head, but are much smaller and less showy. They are in a large, open, branching cluster, expanding successively throughout the summer. *Alisma*, of unknown signification, is from the Greek.

Plants are like a good many of the merchant's wares,—they find their way about the country more readily by water carriage than by land. This is eminently true of sea-plants, and is also the rule with those that grow in or near lakes and rivers. Our native species of Crowfoot which grow on the land are almost entirely native, while our aquatic species are most of them found also in Europe. Many other water-plants are in the same case.



— 155 —
STAR-GRASS.
HYPOXIS ERECTA.
 JUNE—OCTOBER



— 156 —
WATER PLANTAIN.
ALISMA PLANTAGO.
 JULY.

PLATE 157.

CRANBERRY. OXYCOCCUS (VACCINIUM) MACROCARPUS. (HEATH FAMILY.)

Small shrub with slender, creeping, branching stems; leaves alternate, on very short petioles, linear or narrowly elliptical, obtuse at both ends, margin entire, somewhat revolute, shining above, pale beneath; flowers on slender axillary pedicels; corolla lobes four, rolled-back; fruit a four-celled, red berry.



UT few bog plants produce highly esteemed fruit. Still smaller is the number of such plants that are widely cultivated for their ministry to the table,—one of the chief is the larger Cranberry. Its berries are too sour to be much relished uncooked, but are highly prized for sauces and jellies. They are more easily preserved than other small fruits, and so are greatly prized for winter use. The Cranberry has arrived at the honor of almost invariably accompanying the Christmas or Thanksgiving turkey, that famous bird, sedate and solemn when alive, but an indispensable auxiliary to much merrymaking after his departure from this life.

Oxycoccus Macrocarpus is a native of peat-swamps, extending southward to North Carolina and westward to the Mississippi. It is rather common on the Atlantic Seaboard, but becomes scarce in the interior. It puts forth its small purple flowers in early summer, ripening the red juicy berries in October. The slender trailing stems are covered with small, shining, evergreen leaves.

The Cranberry is abundant in New Jersey, where much of the crop raised for the market is produced. Of late years the fruit has been much damaged by a peculiar parasitic fungus, known as Cranberry-scald.

PLATE 158.

ROUND-LEAVED MALLOW. MALVA ROTUNDIFOLIA. (MALLOW FAMILY.)

Root long and thickened; stems ascending or procumbent, branching, striate, more or less pubescent; leaves alternate, on long petioles, orbicular and deeply reniform, crenate, appressed-pubescent; flowers on slender, axillary pedicels; sepals five; petals five, delicate, bluish-white; stamens and pistils united into a column.



COMMON as a little weed in waste-ground and gardens that are not too well cared for is the round-leaved Mallow. A native of Europe; it was early brought to this country and cultivated with its sisters, the Musk Mallow and the High Mallow. It was the first to escape from the constraints of the gardener into the lawless freedom of waysides and fields, and to make itself at home there. So it is now the most wide-spread of the European Mallows in this country and comes nearest to being a troublesome weed. One wonders that it was ever thought worthy of a place in the garden. No one would think of cultivating it now—enriched as we are by so many new and beautiful plants. But in the early days of our country, when medicine as an art was primitive, house-wives versed in “herb-doctoring” thought highly of the curative power of mucilaginous drinks made from the juice of the mallow.

Malva Rotundifolia may be easily recognized by its round, long-stalked leaves and its small pale blue or sometimes pinkish flowers. The fruit is peculiar. It consists of numerous flattened seeds, arranged in a circle. Every child has eaten these cheeses, as he calls them. Malva is the Latin form of the old Greek name for these plants.



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CRANBERRY.

OXYCOCCUS (VACCINIUM) MACROCARPUS.

JUNE.



— 158 —

ROUND-LEAVED MALLOW.

MALVA ROTUNDIFOLIA.

JUNE.

PLATE 159.

GROUND IVY. GLECHOMA HEDERACEA (NEPETA GLECHOMA). (MINT FAMILY.)

Stems creeping and rooting at the joints, or merely decumbent, four-angled, hirsute; leaves opposite, petioled, round-reniform, deeply crenate; flowers in whorls in the axils of the leaves, short-pedicelled; calyx tubular, with five awn-pointed teeth; corolla much longer, two-lipped, deep blue.



ORDSWORTH, describing a flower which he does not name, has given us a happy word-picture of the little Ground-Ivy:

"There, cleaving to the ground, it lies
With multitude of purple eyes,
Spangling a cushion green like moss."

The Ground-Ivy doubtless came to us from Europe; yet it is so wide-spread in Eastern North America, and is met with in such remote, out-of-the-way places, one would almost believe it indigenous to our continent. It is a neat, little plant, with its lowly creeping stems adorned with round, heart-shaped leaves and few-flowered clusters of small blue-spotted blossoms. It prefers good fertile soil. Most often it is met with in low, moist woods, where it has small dark-green leaves and pale flowers. A form that loves open meadows and the banks of brooks has longer stems, larger and lighter-colored leaves, and blossoms of a deeper blue. The Ground-Ivy flowers in May and June. It is very appropriately named from its habit of growth and the ivy-like leaves.

One of its English names is Gill-over-the-Ground; another is Ale-hoof. According to Darlington, "the herb was employed in England to clarify and give a flavor to ale until the reign of Henry VIII., at which period hops were substituted."

PLATE 160.

YELLOW WOOD-SORREL. OXALIS STRICTA. (WOOD-SORREL FAMILY.)

Stem usually erect, six inches to two feet high, much branched, hairy or sometimes nearly smooth; leaves on long slender petioles, without stipules, tri-foliate, leaflets obcordate and wedge-shaped; flowers two or three on long, filiform peduncles; sepals five; petals five; dimorphous, i. e., with long styles and short stamens or vice versa.



He who knows

"The love
Of rivers, woods and fields,"—

and searches them with patient care for the beauties they conceal, sees many things that escape the heedless eye. The faint tinge of red or purple that covers the grass under-foot when in flower, the yellowing of the pollen-covered cedar, are missed by a thousand where they are observed by one. Small plants, perfectly beautiful in their way, are unnoticed save by those who know where to look for them. Such a flower as the Yellow Wood-sorrel, cowering in deep shades, nestling in grassy fence-corners—few, indeed, think of stooping to examine the pretty three-parted leaves and the dainty blossoms.

The species of Oxalis have an exceedingly clever device for preventing close or self-fertilization, that is, for keeping the pollen from falling on the stigma of the same flower. Either the styles are long and the stamens are short, or the styles are short and the stamens long. Hence, the aid of insects must be invoked and cross fertilization is secured.

The crisp, acid taste of the Wood-sorrel is familiar. It is due to the presence of small quantities of oxalic acid. Much the same tart quality extends to the Sheep-sorrel, a very different plant.



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GROUND IVY.

GLECHOMA HEDERACEA. (NEPETA GLECHOMA).

MAY.



— 160 —

YELLOW WOOD-SORREL.

OXALIS STRICTA.

JUNE.

W. H. HATCH, Congressman, First District, Missouri, Chairman Committee of Agriculture, House of Representatives, Washington, Representative for sixteen years, Bloomington, Ill.:

"Have no doubt that the book will be valuable as a text-book, and that it will go far toward the development of a love for the beautiful."

We fully concur in the above:

B. F. FUNK, Congressman, Fourteenth District, Illinois, Graduate Wesleyan University, Ex-Mayor Bloomington.

JAS. W. MARSHALL, Congressman, Ninth District, Virginia, Graduate Roanoke College.

JNO. DAVIS, Congressman, Fifth District, Kansas, Graduate Illinois College, one of the founders of the Agricultural College, Kansas.

S. B. ALEXANDER, Congressman, Sixth District, North Carolina, Graduate University of North Carolina, Member of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Representatives, Member State Board of Agriculture.

H. M. BAKER, Congressman, Second District, New Hampshire, Graduate of Dartmouth College, Ex-State Senator, Ex-Judge Advocate-General of New Hampshire.

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